

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for call conferencing in an Internet Protocol (IP) communications network, the method comprising:

controlling a conference call with a server within the IP network;

detecting an event associated with the conference call, the conference call associated with a plurality of participants within the IP network; and

generating at the server one or more instant message associated with the detected event, the one or more instant messages having Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) format; and

communicating the one or more SIP instant messages ~~associated with the detected event~~ from the server to one or more of the participants ~~by communicating the instant message to a network device external to the server.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises a chairperson of the conference call joining the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify at least one of a number of participants who have joined the conference call and a name of each participant who has joined the conference call.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the one or more SIP instant messages identify at least one of a number of participants who have joined and exited the conference call and a name of each participant who has joined and exited the conference call.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises one of the participants at least a one of joining the conference call and exiting the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify a name of the participant who has at least a one of joined the conference call and exited the conference call.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the one or more SIP messages are transmitted to the one or more participants via a SIP application server external to the server.

~~the event comprises one of the participants exiting the conference call; and~~
~~the one or more instant messages identify a name of the participant who exited the conference call.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises one of a beginning and an end of the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify that the conference call has one of begun and ended.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises one of the participants failing to provide a correct pass code when attempting to join the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages are communicated to a chairperson and identify the participant, an incorrect pass code provided by the participant, and the correct pass code.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises a chairperson of the conference call exiting the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages indicate that the conference call will end after a specified amount of time.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises one of the participants transferring the conference call from one communication device to another communication device; and

the one or more SIP instant messages indicate that the participant transferred communication devices and is transmitted to the chairperson.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises an end to the conference call;

the one or more SIP instant messages comprise a survey; and

further comprising:

receiving one or more responses from one or more of the participants containing answers to the survey;

tabulating the answers; and

communicating one or more SIP instant messages containing the tabulated answers to a chairperson of the conference call.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for call conferencing in an Internet Protocol (IP) communications network, comprising:

one or more ports operable to receive at least one channel of a plurality of channels IP channels for a communication session, the at least one channel having information from at least two of a plurality of conference call participants; and

one or more processors collectively operable to:

detect an event associated with the conference call, the conference call associated with the plurality of participants within the IP network; and

generate at the apparatus one or more instant message associated with the detected event, the one or more instant messages having Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) format; and

communicate the one or more SIP instant messages associated with the detected event from the one or more processors to one or more of the participants via a network device external to the one or more processors.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:

the event comprises a chairperson of the conference call joining the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify at least one of a number of participants who have joined the conference call and a name of each participant who has joined the conference call.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:

the event comprises one of the participants at least a one of joining the conference call and exiting the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify a name of the participant who has at least a one of joined the conference call and exited the conference call.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:

the one or more SIP messages are transmitted to the one or more participants via a SIP application server external to the server.

~~the event comprises one of the participants exiting the conference call; and~~
~~the one or more instant messages identify a name of the participant who exited the conference call.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:

the event comprises one of a beginning and an end of the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify that the conference call has one of begun and ended.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:

the event comprises one of the participants failing to provide a correct pass code when attempting to join the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages are communicated to a chairperson and identify the participant, an incorrect pass code provided by the participant, and the correct pass code.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:

the event comprises a chairperson of the conference call exiting the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages indicate that the conference call will end after a specified amount of time.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:

the event comprises one of the participants transferring the conference call from one communication device to another communication device; and

the one or more SIP instant messages indicate that the participant transferred communication devices and is transmitted to the chairperson.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein:
- the event comprises an end to the conference call;
 - the one or more SIP instant messages comprise a survey; and
 - the one or more processors are further collectively operable to:
 - receive one or more responses from one or more of the participants containing answers to the survey;
 - tabulate the answers; and
 - communicate one or more SIP instant messages containing the tabulated answers to a chairperson of the conference call.

20. (Currently Amended) A media application server in an Internet Protocol (IP) communications network, the media application server comprising one or more processors for executing instructions for:

controlling a conference call within the IP network;

detecting an event associated with a conference call, the conference call associated with a plurality of participants within the IP network; and

generating at the server one or more instant message associated with the detected event, the one or more instant messages having Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) format; and

~~communicating one or more instant messages associated with the detected event from the media application server to one or more of the participants via a network device external to the media application server.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The media application server of Claim 20, wherein:

the event comprises a chairperson of the conference call joining the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify at least one of a number of participants who have joined the conference call and a name of each participant who has joined the conference call.

22. (Currently Amended) The media application server of Claim 20, wherein:

the event comprises one of the participants at least a one of joining the conference call and exiting the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify a name of the participant who has at least a one of joined the conference call and exited the conference call.

23. (Currently Amended) The media application server of Claim 20, wherein:

the one or more SIP messages are transmitted to the one or more participants via a SIP application server external to the server.

~~the event comprises one of the participants exiting the conference call; and~~
~~the one or more instant messages identify a name of the participant who exited the conference call.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The media application server of Claim 20, wherein:

the event comprises one of a beginning and an end of the conference call; and

the one or more SIP instant messages identify that the conference call has one of begun and ended.

25. (Currently Amended) The media application server of Claim 20, wherein:
- the event comprises an end to the conference call;
 - the one or more SIP instant messages comprise a survey; and
 - further comprising computer readable program code for:
 - receiving one or more responses from one or more of the participants containing answers to the survey;
 - tabulating the answers; and
 - communicating one or more SIP instant messages containing the tabulated answers to a chairperson of the conference call.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the one or more SIP messages are communicated directly from the server to the one or more participants. ~~4 wherein the one or more instant messages is communicated in a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) format.~~
27. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein, before a conference call begins the server is informed of the one or more participants in the conference call, when the conference call starts the one or more SIP messages indicating the conference call has begun are communicated to each of the one or more participants. ~~4 wherein the one or more instant messages is communicated in a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) format.~~

28. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein each of the one or more participants has associated therewith a plurality of communications devices, and the one or more SIP instant messages are sent to each of the plurality of devices.

29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the one or more SIP messages are communicated directly from the apparatus to the one or more participants.

30. (New) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein, before a conference call begins the one or more processors are informed of the one or more participants in the conference call, when the conference call starts the one or more SIP messages indicating the conference call has begun are communicated to each of the one or more participants.

31. (New) The media application server of Claim 20 wherein the one or more SIP messages are communicated directly from the apparatus to the one or more participants.

32. (New) The media application server of Claim 20 wherein, before a conference call begins the media application server is informed of the one or more participants in the conference call, when the conference call starts the one or more SIP messages indicating the conference call has begun are communicated to each of the one or more participants.